

Gardenia Growing Is Privilege Enjoyed by California Gardener

California can easily be termed a gardener's paradise. For here the home gardener can dabble with citrus, tropicals, rare plants as few other gardeners in the country can. One of the "gardening privileges" in this state is the cultivating of Gardenias.

Gardenia Jasminoides is widely cultivated in this state. Provide the right soil-acid-and-plant it in the right climate-hot days, warm nights and this variety will grow to six feet with glossy green foliage. Extremely fragrant, waxy-white single and double flowers are borne on the plant in the summer. Mystery, Vetchi and Gardenia radicans are three forms of the jasminoides variety. Vetchi bears smaller flowers than Mystery but more of them. Gardenia radicans is a dwarf form six to eight inches high and twelve to fourteen inches across.

Another variety is the Gardenia thunbergia, not as its relative. This form grows taller and more open and though it will lose its buds at 24 degrees it requires less heat than the jasminoides and is more tolerant of soils.

In cultivating the Gardenia watch for yellowing foliage.

This sometimes indicates a lack of iron or magnesium. Applications of iron sulfate and magnesium may compensate. Check with your nurseryman for his suggestions. From March to September a commercial fertilizer should be applied monthly.

The Gardenia can be planted in many ways. If the climate is ideal, use it in mass plantings, as hedges, for show... if you're not sure of climatic conditions grow it in a container. And if it's corsage flowers you want disbudbing is necessary.

Take advantage of the California climate—and plant this special plant that can be grown so well in "this gardener's paradise." Your nurseryman will have the suitable varieties of the Gardenia for your area.

Hibiscus Will Furnish Tropical Appearance

Bright, beautiful tropical-looking flowers. A shrub that will add an exotic note. Blossoms in rainbow colors.

What plant do these phrases describe? None other than the Hibiscus—which grows in this state both as a tropical evergreen and a hardy perennial shrub!

Many Are Uses of Shade Tree; Different Kinds Blend in Yard

Infinitely varied in type, description and function, shade trees can perform a multitude of ways in your yard or garden. Deciduous or evergreen, fruit-bearing, blossoming, large or small trees of each description will blend well together in your yard and carry on their own special functions without interfering with each other.

Most varieties of shade trees can be obtained now in containers at nurseries. An excellent selection in a deciduous shade tree is the Chinese Pistache (Pistacia Chienensis) which grows a moderate 40 to 50 feet, round headed in a rather loose and open habit of growth. The Pistache is well known for its Fall colors—scarlet and crimson—and the female tree will bear Fall fruits of scarlet turning purple. It does very well in warm areas where summers are long and hot and is rated high as pest free and long living.

In the evergreen tree class the Camphor (Cinnamomum Camphora) is a slow-growing selection, eventually reaching 80 feet and spreading to some 100. In Spring its light green foliage, growing in a compact crown effect, is tinged with bronze. This tree creates dense shade. It is strong wood and resistant to the wind so that it is a good choice for street planting. Give the Camphor little or no pruning and don't worry too much about soil and water—it is very adaptable as to variations of either.

Many fruit-bearing trees make

excellent shade trees for the yard too—and are doubly awarding when their fruit appears. One of the most beautiful and adaptable trees in this category is the Oriental Persimmon. It adapts to all climate areas of the state, is relatively free of pests and disease and requires little pruning. The tree itself is hardy to 20 degrees but the dormant fruit buds and twigs will suffer at 20 degrees. Often planted just for its foliage color, the Persimmon is a Fall performer—its dark green leathery leaves turn yellow and red and the bright orange fruit appear after the leaves have fallen.

Plant your choices in shade trees as you would any container grown plant. Prepare a planting hole deeper and wider than the root ball of the tree. Place the root ball on a mound of soil piled in the bottom of the hole so that the nursery dirt-ring is slightly above ground level. Fill it with soil and water to get rid of air holes. After planting be sure to watch the leaves of the tree for signs of wilting in the first two or three weeks—it takes that long for the trees to grow out of their root balls and establish themselves in the surrounding soil. Water as often as you would if the trees were still in their containers.

YOUNGEST MAN

Theodore Roosevelt at 42 was the youngest ever inaugurated as President.

Daisy, Aster Marguerite Add Life to Any Garden

For summer cut flowers there's no beating the daisy and its companions the aster and the Marguerite. Each blooms profusely and together they provide a variety of blossom forms that will liven up the garden in even the most barren areas. Now's the time to plant these perennial flowers and in an amazingly short time you'll have a wonderful supply of each flower, says the California Association of Nurserymen.

The Shasta Daisy or Chrysanthemum maximum has been highly hybridized and is now available in a wealth of forms, each bearing a name. The Esther Reed and Marconi are doubles; Majestic, a duplex type with a five-inch flower on a fine stem; the Astaya, a frilly, lacy double, smaller than the Marconi but with a better stem. Wirral's Supreme resembles Esther Reed but it blooms are twice as large and the stem and plant taller and showier than the latter; and Florence Reed is a full double with four-inch Aster-like very long lasting when cut.

Shasta Daisies are white with gold centers and green, narrow-toothed leaves; a yellow variety

was developed by the Earl Darnley but the color is not strong. You can color Daisies any shade you want, however, by dipping the blooms in vegetable dye.

Hardy throughout the state, the Shasta Daisy prefers full sun and plenty of watering and is almost completely free from insects and diseases. It is so rapid spreading that the clumps should be divided almost yearly.

Cousin to the Shasta, the Marguerite is also a member of the Chrysanthemum family and bears the botanical name of Chrysanthemum frutescens.

Roof Can Make Patio Cozier

Adding a roof can transform your patio or terrace into a cozy, sheltered room. You may want a roof to solve problems of climate—screen off the sun and make the patio cooler in midday, protect you from drafts of wind, or shelter you from rain. Building a roof is a simple job and an article in the July SUNSET has seven pages of helpful information on design and choice of materials. It will tell where to locate the roof,

how to figure the beam, rafter, and post sizes, and how to do connections. An open framework roof is often used as a support for vines; open wood lath provides filtered shade; bamboo blinds and woven reed give more densely filtered shade. A solid roof of wood, canvas, or plastic provides positive wind, rain and sun protection.

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Fuchsias, Begonias At Descanso

Adding to the other floral attractions at Los Angeles County's Descanso Gardens in La Canada this summer are the newly blooming fuchsias and begonias along the running stream, according to Gardens Superintendent John Threlkeld.

These flowers also are to be admired along the White Arrow Trail, which winds through the 180-acre Descanso Gardens beauty spot at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada.

The 7,500 rose bushes which were attractions during the recently concluded Descanso Gardens Rose Festival will continue to bloom in their respective seasons during the remainder of the summer.

Outstanding in beauty among the modern All-America Roses are the Chrysler Imperial and the Charlotte Armstrong.

"In fact, the entire modern rose section of Descanso Gardens is a new in its greatest splendor," Threlkeld said.

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